

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER : **ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE**

COURSE CODE : **ENG 404/IDE-ENG404**

TIME ALLOWED : **TWO (2) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION.**
- 2. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT MORE THAN ONCE.**
- 3. CORRECT USE OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY CONVENTIONS WILL BE REWARDED AND THE REVERSE WILL BE PENALISED.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION IS GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR.

God's Bits of Wood – Ousmane

1. Comment on the shift in gender roles as the events and circumstances of the novel unfold. (30)

To My Children's Children – Magona

2. "In this novel the author portrays the struggles of a woman within the context of apartheid." Discuss this statement. (30)

Kehinde – Emecheta

3. "Factors both in the African and the western world seem to collude to oppress both men and women in this novel. Support or refute this statement. (30)

Yoranivoyoto – Mnthali

4. Discuss the feminist / womanist implications of the way Yoranivoyoto is presented in the novel. (30)

The Red Head Khumalo – Bregin

5. What difficulties are facing the people as they attempt to build a new South Africa in this novel? (30)

SECTION B

Blood Knot – Fugard

6. Discuss how through diverse perspectives and skin colour Fugard has depicted the South African nation in this play.

Song of a Goat – Clark

7. "Clark seems to argue that indigenous culture and tradition can sustain a society creditably, and that it is only when such culture and tradition are breached that disaster unfolds among the people." Discuss this statement. (30)

Crossings – Heywood

'My Grandmother is My Love" E. Mazani

7. Analyse the poem that is attached, paying attention to the general undertones of:

- (a) Affection (12)
- (b) Veneration (12)
- (c) Downright teasing (6)

8. Comment generally on what you consider as some of the features of African poetry

65 MY GRANDMOTHER IS MY LOVE

Eric Mazani (Zimbabwe)

I love my grandmother with the whole of my heart.
 Now she is an old, ancient girl her face has changed, of course.
 My grandmother of ninety years is my love.
 She is a teller of tales.

5 She is old, bold and always cold.

Indeed, she is never far from a fire-place.

Makadzoka she is called, for she once died.

After some time she rose from death.

Mushakabvudimbu they call her in Shona – half-dead.

10 My life is in her hands and the life of my family too.

She is a half witch, having been taught to cure with herbs.

Her eyes are out but the sense of touch is strong.

The sense of smell is there, for she can smell herbs.

Little, thin grandmother of mine!

15 Looking so young because of eating so many sweets!

Sugar-sucker! Ten teaspoons full in each cup of tea!

My old *ambuya!* *Makadzoka* is my goddess.

She hates dirt, noise, quarrels and dry food.

She is ever sitting on her mat in the sun

20 Or otherwise hunting for herbs.

She is ever smiling, but an egg grows in her mouth when

One annoys her.

'I wish to die and rest' she says. 'When will this world end?'

'I am tired.'

25 Beside her is a packet of sugar, a sweet sauce of peppered corn.

Her teeth are brown with rust; her nose is sooty with black snuff.

Makadzoka is my love, I shall look into her dimples

The laughing dimples are on her chin. They were supposed to be

Two but there are now a hundred! There are holes where stagnant water

30 Was scooped out.

Lovely *Mushakabvu*

My grandmother

Is my love.